SERMON NOTES The Gift of Hope – December 15 – Pastor Peter

Luke 2:25-32 "At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as You have promised. I have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and He is the glory of Your people Israel!"

1. The Hope of a Rescuer

Luke 2:25 "He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel."

He has this living hope. He's waiting for Messiah and he's waiting to be rescued.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Jesus birth as child so significant?

2. Why does he choose you or me even though we make mistakes?

3. Is there anyone that doesn't need saving? Why?

We All Need To Be Rescued

The rescuer shows up for everybody because we all need to be rescued.

God makes choices, and God chooses you.

Luke 5:1-3 "One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on Him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So He sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there."

There are two boats and Jesus chooses one.

The boat He chooses belongs to Simon who would later be renamed Peter.

And Jesus isn't really choosing a boat – He's choosing a person.

If you know Jesus, He chose you.

And the Rescuer who comes into the Temple that day in His Mom's arms grows up and He makes a massive sacrifice for you and He chooses you.

QUESTIONS:

4.	Why	so we
ne	ed to	carry the
me	essag	e?

5.	What	are	we
ca	llad to	do	?

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Heb. 13:12 "So also Jesus suffered and died
outside the city gates to make His people holy
by means of His own blood."

1 John 4:10 "This is real love - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

Rom. 5:8 "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

There is still power in the blood of Jesus.

We Carry the Message

And we get to carry this message of hope.

In the temple, Simeon has no problem announcing who this Baby is. We can announce what Jesus has done in our lives.

Jesus talks with the woman at the well and she goes back to her village to tell them about Him.

John 4:29,30 "'Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could He possibly be the Messiah?' So the people came streaming from the village to see Him."

Jesus looks, He sees them coming up the road and here's what He says,

QUESTIONS:

6.	What is the role
of	the Holy Spirit
in	our calling?

7.	Wł	ıy s	ho	ulo	w b	/e
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Ho	olv	Spi	rit	?		

John 4:35 "You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake	QUESTIONS:
up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest."	8. How could the father of the prodigal son
What do we see when we see people?	reacted to his return?
Let's place our ears close to God's heart again.	
Because when Jesus sees people, He sees that they're lost and broken and they desperately need Him.	
2. Hope in the Holy Spirit	
And as Simeon is waiting and hoping, he has this amazing experience with the presence of the Holy Spirit.	9. How did he actually react?
John 14:16,17 "And I will ask the Father, and He	
will give you another Advocate, who will never	
leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."	10. What does the
The Holy Spirit isn't plan 'B'.	father's reaction tell you about
What Jesus did we're called to do.	God?
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John 14:12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am

going to be with the Father."

3. Hope in the Embrace

People love holding babies. People love embracing babies. And old Simeon does too.

He grabs Jesus from Mary and Joseph and he embraces Him.

Luke 15 tells the story of the Prodigal son who demands his inheritance, loses it all and ends up living with the pigs.

Luke 15:17a "When he finally came to his senses..."

That's a statement of maturity. 'When he finally came to his senses....' He's no longer driven just by feelings and desire.

But there's another person in the story, his Dad.

Luke 15:20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

The father embraces his delinquent son.

Our Father is always ready to embrace.

James 4:8 "Come close to God, and God will come close to you."

QUESTIONS:

11. Why should you hope for God's embrace

	The	Father's	arms	are	open	wide.
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Putting it all together (Application)

1. Jesus Came to Rescue Us, Not to Conform to the World's Expectations Jesus' mission wasn't just about His sacrifice on the cross—it began long before that, in a decision to leave the glory of His throne in heaven. As the creator of all things, He chose to lay down His divine stature and enter the world as a helpless child, born into a poor and humble family. This story defies everything the world would expect. First, the idea that Jesus, God in the flesh, would come down at all seems incomprehensible. Second, if He did become human, surely He would be born into power and wealth, surrounded by influence to fulfill His mission. And third, if Jesus was truly divine, He would never allow Himself to be subjected to the indignities and suffering of human life.

But Jesus wasn't on a mission to elevate Himself. He was on a rescue mission. When you're rescuing someone, nothing matters except bringing them to safety. Jesus wasn't concerned about His worldly status or influence, because those things don't define Him. He was solely focused on rescuing us—bringing us to salvation, showing us the way to redemption. You and me.

2. The Holy Spirit Was Always the Plan A
The Holy Spirit was never a backup plan or an
afterthought. From the beginning, He was always
part of God's perfect plan. When Jesus walked
on earth, the Holy Spirit was with Him,
empowering Him and guiding Him. And when
Jesus ascended to the Father's side, the Holy
Spirit didn't leave us. He remained to continue
the work that Jesus started—helping us fulfill
the calling on our lives. The Holy Spirit wasn't an
alternative option; He was always central to
God's design, working through us to accomplish
what we cannot do on our own.

3. Hope in the Embrace

The story of the prodigal son paints a powerful picture of God's love. The son, after wandering far from home, expected to be met with anger and rejection—deserving punishment for his reckless behavior. But when he returned, he found his father waiting with open arms, ready to embrace him, not as a servant, but as his beloved son. In our own lives, we may feel unworthy, convinced that our mistakes have separated us from God's love. But just as the father in the story welcomed his son with compassion, God always welcomes us with open arms when we come to Him in humility and repentance. No matter how far we've fallen, we can always hope for His embrace, because His love for us is greater than our failures.



ACTION STEPS:	